(c) whether Government proposes to disband AICTE and also proposes to set up Independent Regulatory Authority for higher education; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and further steps Government propses to take to streamline higher education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The complaints pertain mainly to the following:

(i) Delay in grant of approval,

(ii) Lack of uniformity in applying norms and standards in grant of approval,

(iii) Lack of action by AICTE on complaints against institutions relating to malpractices in admissions, and

(iv) Irregularities in Regional Offices.

(c) No such decision has been taken.

(d) Does not arise. As regards reforms in Higher Education, the Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages reforms in several aspects e.g. Admission, Curriculum, Evaluation, Accreditation, Teacher Competence, Autonomy and Accountability, etc.

Opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas

1761. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas in different regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the status of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Orissa; and

(d) what are the details of new such schools that would be set up under the above project in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened from time to time on the basis of viable proposals subject to availability of funds and sanction by the competent authority.

(c) There are 36 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the State of Orissa.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Judicial reforms

1762. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to implement the judicial reform measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Judicial reforms is a continuous process. It has to keep pace with the changing time, conditions and requirements of the people. Government is committed to providing speedy and inexpensive justice to the common man.

Various judicial reform measures being implemented by the Government include: Scheme of Fast Track Courts and Family Courts, Infrastructure support for Judiciary including computerization, simplification of judicial procedures, augmenting Judges strength in High Courts, training of Judicial Officers for improvement in the quality of administration of justice, accountability of judges, organizing Lok Adalats and encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution, setting up of special tribunals etc. Further, with a view to providing speedy, affordable and substantive justice to the poor at the grassroots level, the Government has introduced the Gram Nyayalaya Bill, 2007 in the Parliament.

Selection of Judges

1763. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that political affiliation, besides judicial calibre is a factor in the appointment of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts, as told by Government to an applicant under the RTI Act and also reported in the media;

(b) if so, the details of cases in which Government holds back names of Judges, as contained in official reply of Government;

(c) whether Government is planning to make selection process of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court transparent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court lies with the Chief Justice of India and for the High Court, it lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court.

As per the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Judges drawn on the basis of the said judgment, Judges are selected keeping in view their educational qualifications, nature and extent of practice, length of the practice, the field of specialisation and professional income for the last three years. Besides this, the competence of the person, his judicial potential, temperament and integrity are also kept in mind. All this information, as also other background information including regarding political affiliations/leanings of the recommendee persons are made available to the Chief Justice of India for consideration by the Supreme Court Collegium. It is the Collegium which considers all the available information on the candidates and forms a view regarding their suitability or otherwise for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court/High Courts. As per the above judgment of the Supreme Court, the responsibility for selection of candidates for appointment as Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts lies with the judiciary.